

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 DRC-01 /073 W

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R 171920Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4771

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USIA FOR: ILA, IOP

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1. THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY PURCHASED
CARACAS' TV CHANNEL 8 (CVTV) FOR 24 MILLION BOLIVARS.

2. THE CHANNEL, ONE OF THREE COMMERCIAL STATIONS IN
THE COUNTRY, EACH HAVING RELAY STATIONS MAKING IT
POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO TRANSMIT NATIONWIDE, HAS HAD FINAN-
CIAL TROUBLES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. HOWEVER, CHANNEL 8
HAD RECENTLY CHANGED ITS PROGRAMMING AND PRIVATE SURVEYS
SHOWED MUCH IMPROVED RATINGS.

3. MINISTER OF INFORMATION SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI TOLD
NEWSMEN AFTER THE SALE HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED,
"VENEZUELA HAS FINALLY ACQUIRED THE MOST MODERN AND
BEST MEANS OF MASSIVE COMMUNICATION". HE SAID "GOV'S
CHANNEL 5 IS NOW A REFUSE DUMP AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY
YEARS UNWORTHY OF A MODERN COUNTRY."

4. CONSALVI WENT ON TO SAY THAT INFORMATION, CULTURE AND
TRAINING WILL BE THE BASICS OF THE NEW PROGRAMMING OF
CHANNEL 8 AND CHANNEL 5.

5. IT SEEMS THAT CHANNEL 8 WILL BE THE FLAGSHIP STATION
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OF THE TWO CHANNELS SINCE IT IS A MORE MODERN AND COMPLETELY EQUIPPED PLANT.,

6. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTED AND GOT WAS A MODERN PLANT IT COULD IMMEDIATELY USE WITHOUT GOING INTO GREAT EXPENSE REPAIRING CHANNEL 5, ACCORDING TO WELL INFORMED SOURCES.

7. DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SALE OF THE CHANNEL, MANY PRIVATE SECTORS EXPRESSED TREPIDATION OVER THE PURCHASE BY THE GOVERNMENT, BELIEVING THAT IT WAS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD SOME KIND OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE MEDIA.

8. NEVERTHELESS, THE PRECEDENT HAD BEEN SET WHEN SOME MONTHS AGO THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENED DIRECTLY IN THE LOCAL TELEVISION INDUSTRY REQUIRING FOREIGN COMPANIES TO IMMEDIATELY DIVEST THEMSELVES OF INTEREST IN CHANNELS 2 AND 4, SELLING THEIR SHARES TO THE OWNERSHIP OF THE STATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE VENEZUELAN OWNERS GAINED A GREAT DEAL BY THE HURRIED SALE, ONE OF THE TOP EXECUTIVES OF CHANNEL 2 TOLD THE REPORTING OFFICER THAT HE THOUGHT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN HEAVY HANDED AND THAT A BAD PRECEDENT HAD BEEN SET.
HIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, TELEVISION STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D740192-0946
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ISecure: 1
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2002
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

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